

REMARKS

At the outset, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for the indication that claims 7-9 and 19 are directed to allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

1. Drawings

The Examiner has indicated that Figures 1a and 2 are acceptable for examination purposes only. Formal drawings will be submitted when the application is allowed.

2. Claim Informalities

Claims 7, 10, and 18 were objected to because of informalities, but, the rejection is moot in light of the cancellation of these claims to place the application in condition for allowance.

All claim objections have been overcome by the foregoing amendments.

3. Claim Amendments

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7-9 and 19 are directed to allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 7, and has amended claim 8 to depend from newly amended claim 1. Since claim 8 depended from original claim 7, now incorporated into claim 1, and claim 9 depended from original claim 8, Applicant asserts that it is not necessary to rewrite claims 8 and 9 in independent form and they are allowable after amending claim 8 to depend from now allowable claim 1. That is, amend claim 8 and claim 9 depend from now allowable claim 1 and are allowable for at least that reason.

The limitation of claim 19 has been incorporated into base claim 18 by amendment thereof. Therefore, as indicated by the Examiner, amended claim 18 is allowable.

4. Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-5, 10-19, and 21-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Linberg (US 6,385,593).

The rejections are mooted by the above claim amendments.

5. Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 6 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Linberg (US 6,385,593) in view of Joao (US 6,283,761).

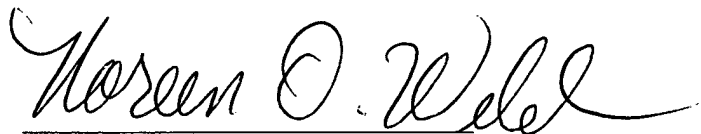
The rejections are mooted in light of the foregoing amendments to the claims

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all stated objections of the Office Action have been overcome and all stated rejections of the Office Action have been mooted and this Application is in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any issues remain which may be best resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to kindly telephone the undersigned at the local, Washington D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 12, 2003

NOW/att

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